

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Lt. Gov. Crouch, Indiana Broadband Office designate Tipton County as a Broadband Ready Community

**INDIANAPOLIS** (March 2, 2022) – Today, Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch and the Indiana Broadband Office announced that Tipton County is now designated as an official Broadband Ready Community. The Broadband Ready Communities Program was created as a tool to encourage broadband development throughout Indiana.

The Broadband Ready Community certification sends a signal to the telecommunication industry that a community has taken steps to reduce barriers to broadband infrastructure investment.

"Congratulations to Tipton County on becoming Broadband Ready," Crouch said. "Communities throughout the state are prioritizing connectivity and investment, including the leaders of Tipton County. We recognize the hard work you've put into yourselves and look forward to you continuing your work to attract this crucial infrastructure to your community."

The certification was approved by the Indiana Broadband Office following the Tipton County Commissioners adoption of a Broadband Ready Community ordinance.

"The Tipton County Commissioners are committed to encouraging development of widespread access to Broadband Connectivity in our community. We are partnering with the Indiana Broadband Ready Community initiative through the State of Indiana to help facilitate bringing these needed services throughout our community," said Dennis Henderson, Tipton County Commissioner.

2022 has been an aggressive and successful start for newly certified Broadband Ready Communities across that state, according to Earnie Holtrey, Project Manager at the Indiana Broadband Office.

"2021 was great year for the Broadband Ready Communities Program, and 2022 is proving to be just that if not better. Congratulations to Tipton County for your hard work and investment into the growth and future of your community," said Holtrey.

Via 2020 legislation, the Broadband Ready Community Program was transitioned from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) to the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA). IBO began the day-to-day management of the Broadband Ready Community Program on July 1, 2020. For more information, visit in.gov/indianabroadband.

Under the leadership of <u>Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch</u>, who also serves as the Secretary of Rural Development, the Indiana Broadband Office (IBO) mission is to assist residents in need of affordable and reliable broadband connectivity. This mission of reaching Hoosiers where they live, work and play is accomplished by communicating with stakeholders, providing resources to a diverse audience, and leveraging established relationships with elected officials, associations, and providers.

For more information, visit <u>in.gov/broadband</u>.